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Meeting Minutes 04/04/2007

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 4/4/07

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*	Fey*	Dunn*	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons*	Bayer*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan	
Ferrara	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard	Fanning*	Carman*	Kneeland*

*Indicates present

VISITORS: School Superintendent Nate Levenson, School Committee Member Jeff Theilman, Recreation Director Joe Connelley

WARRANT REVIEW: Tosti met with Town Counsel John Maher and reviewed the warrant. Finance Committee and Selectmen have made conflicting recommendations on a couple of articles. Review was not completed.

SCHOOL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP: Levenson and Theilman reported on the expected outcome of the group. Based on the state's criteria, Stratton is unlikely to qualify for state rebuilding assistance for 15-20 years. The Thompson is likely to qualify much sooner, 3-7 years. The primary recommendation of the group is a "go slow" approach. This would put \$150,000/year in spending into Stratton each year for the next 10. Thompson would receive \$150,000/year for the next 5 years. Thompson would be rebuilt if it comes up on the state list. There might be a second, minority opinion that is "go fast." This involves rebuilding Thompson as soon as possible (12-18 months). The funding mechanism for this is still being researched, but might involve using the remaining money in the debt exclusion account and bond anticipation notes. There were many questions on the details and impact of the plans and other school topics.

VETERAN'S RINK AND RECREATION: Director Connelley walked through the Veteran's Memorial Rink budget. He explained the short-term financial plan is improving because the state-permitted rental rate is going up. It is clear, however, that the increases in rates will not be enough to cover the costs of the capital needs of the rink.

The recreation budget was next. It is running at a deficit. The projection is that the deficit will be smaller this year than last. The next problem is that the budget is "made" by people signing up in the spring (FY07) and paying money for summer programs (FY08) that is used to cover the previous summer programs (FY07).

SCHOOL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP, AGAIN: After discussion, the committee VOTED unanimously to support the facilities working group's primary recommendation in principle. The specific funding amounts will be investigated by the capital planning committee.

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE: The capital committee recommended an updated plan that calls for \$120,000 to be spent on Thompson bathrooms, to be bonded in FY08. The impact in the FY08 budget is approximately \$3000 in interest. VOTED unanimously.

Dan O'Neill delivered several handouts including the pay and reclassification proposals. This was \$40,000, much

higher than the projected \$5,000.

It was announced that committee member Ryan Ferrara was the proud father of 9-pound boy - mom and child doing well.

Draft minutes provided 4/8/07 by Dan Dunn.